



Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

Region: AL/MS/FL

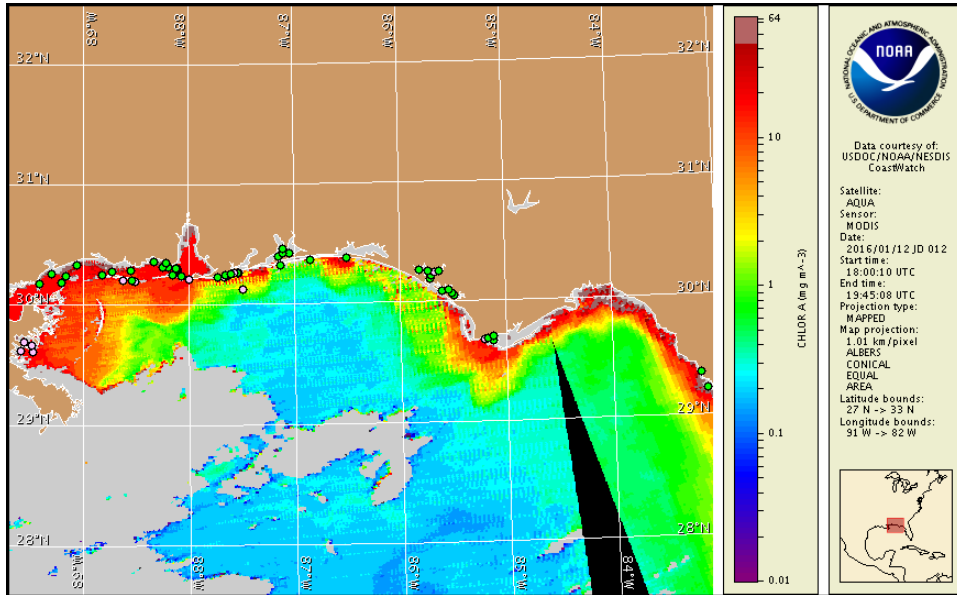
Thursday, 14 January 2016

NOAA National Ocean Service

NOAA Satellite and Information Service

NOAA National Weather Service

Last bulletin: Monday, January 11, 2016



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible *K. brevis* HAB areas shown by red polygon(s), when applicable. Points represent cell concentration sampling data from January 4 to 12: red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue (very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of sample providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HAB-OFS bulletin guide:

http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf

Detailed sample information for Florida can be obtained through FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute at:

<http://myfwc.com/redtidestatus>

To see previous bulletins and forecasts for other Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin regions, visit at: <http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/bulletins.html>

Conditions Report

Not present to background concentrations of *Karenia brevis* (commonly known as Florida red tide) are present along- and offshore St. Bernard Parish in Louisiana; Harrison and Jackson counties in Mississippi; Mobile and Baldwin counties in Alabama; and portions of northwest Florida from Escambia to Franklin counties. *K. brevis* concentrations are patchy in nature and levels of respiratory irritation will vary locally based upon nearby bloom concentrations, ocean currents, and wind speed and direction. The highest level of potential respiratory irritation forecast for alongshore northwest Florida Thursday, January 14 to Tuesday, January 19 is listed below:

County Region: Forecast (Duration)

Gulf County, west bay regions-St. Joseph Bay area: Low (Th-Tu)

All Other NWFL County to Louisiana Parish Regions: None expected (Th-Tu)

SWFL County Regions: Visit <http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/#swfl>

Check http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/beach_conditions.html for recent, local observations. Health information, from the Florida Department of Health and other agencies, is available at http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/hab_health_info.html. Reports of respiratory irritation and dead fish were received from Gulf County.

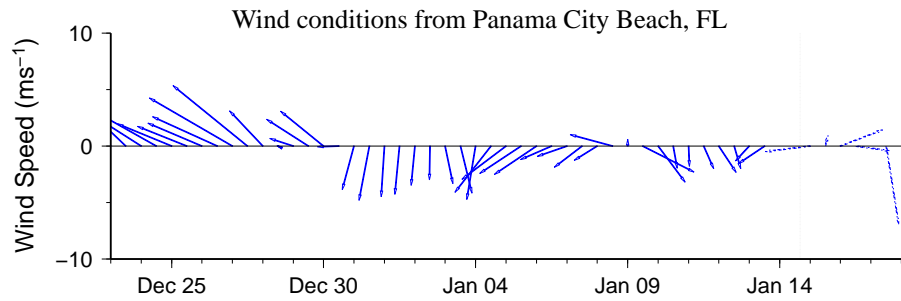
Analysis

****Due to the upcoming federal holiday, the next bulletin will be issued on Tuesday, January 19.****

Recent samples collected along- and offshore Alabama and northwest Florida indicate not present to background *Karenia brevis* concentrations from Mobile County, Alabama to Franklin County, FL (FWRI, ADPH; 1/11-12). Reports of respiratory irritation and fish kills continue to be received from the St. Joseph Bay region of Gulf County (MML; 1/11-14) where sampling on 12/31 detected up to 'medium' *K. brevis* concentrations (FWRI). Additional sampling of this region is recommended. Detailed sample information and a summary of impacts can be obtained through FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute at: <http://myfwc.com/redtidestatus>.

In recent ensemble imagery (MODIS Aqua, 1/12), patches of elevated to very high chlorophyll (2 to >20 $\mu\text{g/L}$) with the optical characteristics of *K. brevis* are visible along- and offshore from Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana to Franklin County, Florida.

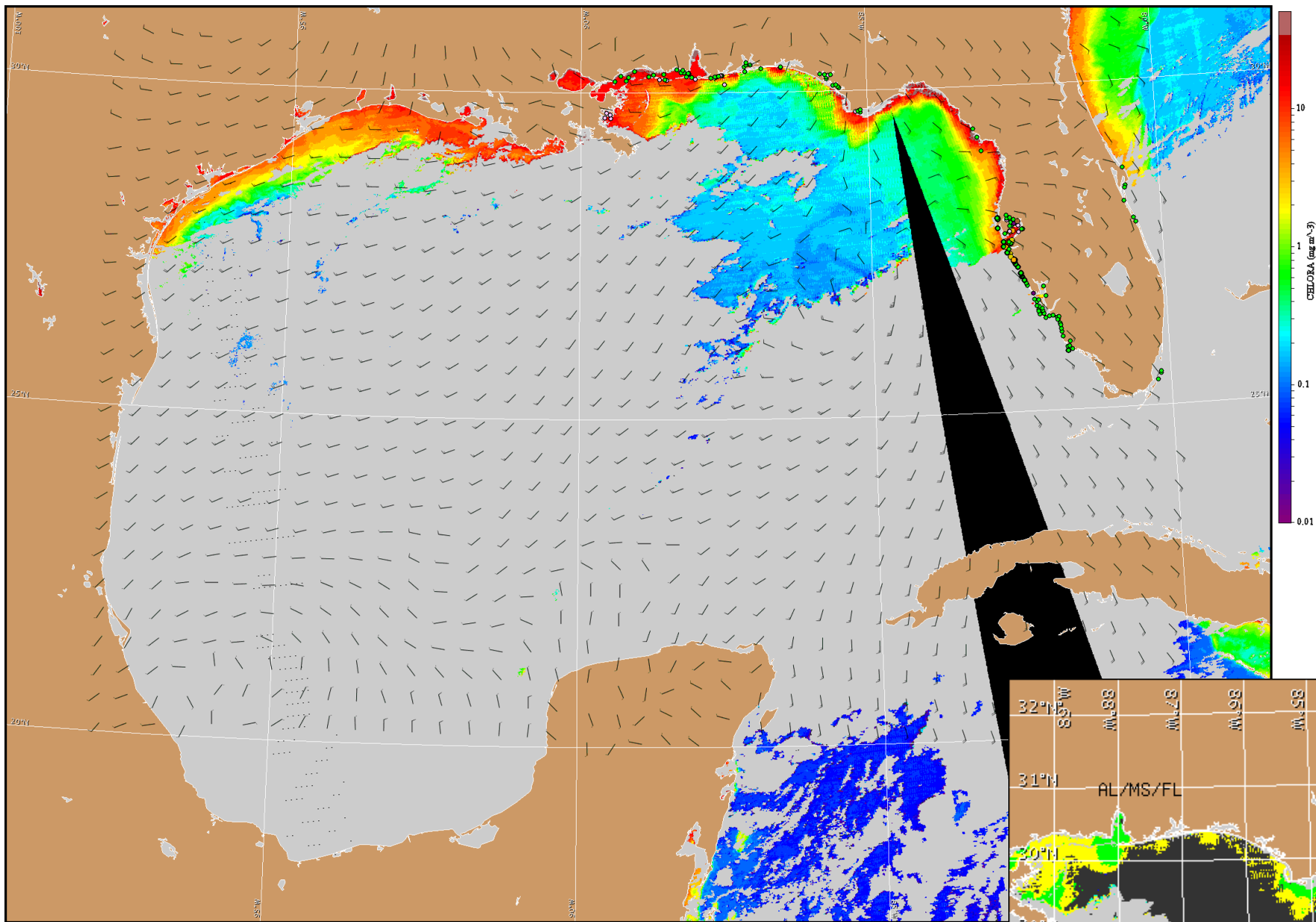
Davis, Derner



Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts. Wind observation and forecast data provided by NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS).

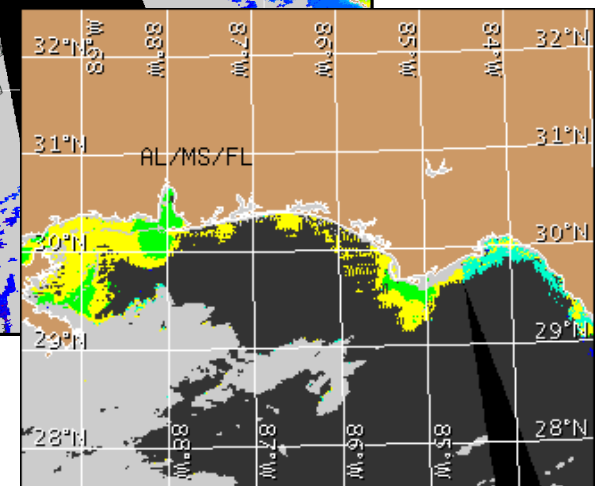
Wind Analysis

Escambia to Gulf counties: East winds (15kn, 8m/s) today becoming southeast winds (15-40kn, 8-20m/s) this afternoon through tonight. Southwest winds (30kn, 15m/s) Friday becoming west winds (15-20kn, 8-10m/s) in the afternoon through Friday night. Northwest winds (5-10kn, 3-5m/s) Saturday. Southwest winds (15-20kn) Saturday night becoming northwest winds (20-25kn, 10-13m/s) overnight. North winds (10-20kn, 5-10m/s) Sunday through Monday.



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for January 15, 2016 12Z with points representing cell concentration sampling data from January 4 to 12: red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue (very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of sample providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HAB-OFS bulletin guide:

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Verified and suspected HAB areas shown in red. Other areas with *K. brevis* optical characteristics shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).